The Legend in Annatour

Mito Orihara

The star will take you to the land that lies far, far away in time and distance. Let the Star guide, Chosen One. If you hold those two precious things near to your heart, the Star will take you to the land.

(The Legend in Annatour)

mito orihara
presents

The Legend in Annatour

THE LEGEND IN ANNATOUR VOL.1

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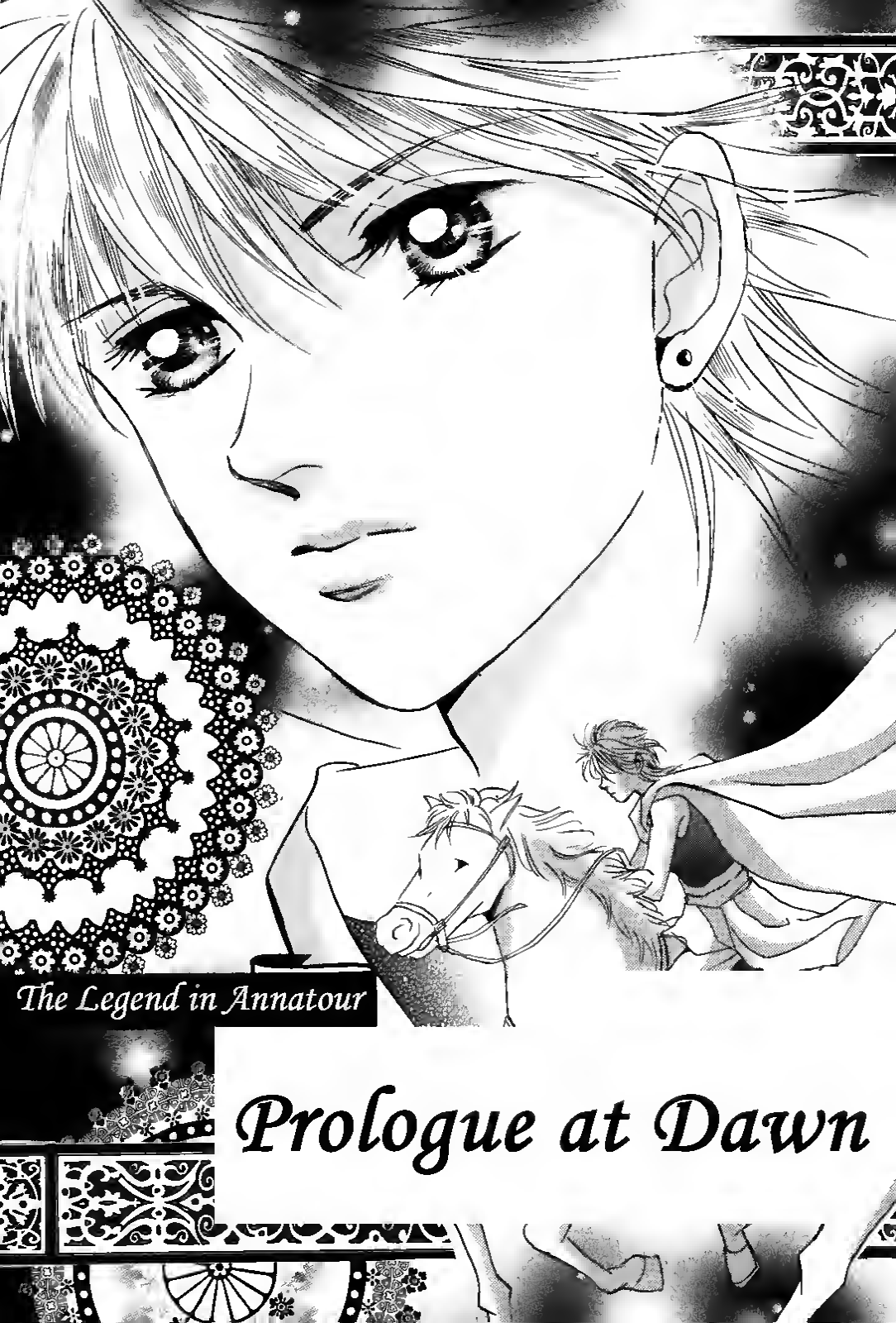
The Legend in Annatour Chapter One

The Golden Virdia

It's a boy!!
The heir is born!!
CHEER
わあっ
King Elle Sadeen's baby boy has hair of golden color!

There will be a boy born to the land with the blessings of the rising sun. The golden prince will grow up to be a formidable King who guards the desert and brings prosperity to his people. (The Legend in Annatour)
The Virdia is born!! He's the future King of the desert!!
Shura Sadeen, the prince of the desert kingdom Esfahan, is born in the year 1186 in Annatour calendar.


The Legend in Annatour
Prologue at Dawn

Esfahan Palace, 1192 in Annatour calender
Prince.
Prince Shura, where are you?
SHEESH
Quiet, Alshe.
Miss. Ilia is looking all over for you.
I need to get some fresh air.
Do you not like studying, Prince Shura?
Well, studying and sword training are all right.
But I hate manners lessons. So boring.
You know how Ilia can get. The supervising lady is strict.

Now you're starting to sound like her.
Shura!!
Oh!!
Etiquette is a compulsory if you are to be King.
Alshe Lacid, the first retainer of Prince Shura.
Watch out!
Welcome home!!
WOOSH
WHOA!
He's back from the inspection tour of Truke!!
That's my father!!
ZZSH
Father!!

Shura...
HA HA
You got heavy while I was away.
Hey, look what fell from the sky!
Heart attack
Na-uh! I'm a big boy...!!
Shura.
I'm sorry I'm not around much. Do you miss me?
You're the King of this country, father.
A good king performs many duties to keep his people happy.

Listen.
You're a clever little boy, aren't you?
That's right, Shura
Esfahan has been gover-ned by the Sadeens for generations.
A King's job is not to reign over the people.
It is to devote him-self to the protection of his people.
Don't ever forget that.

Never
...!!

1200, in Annatour calendar
You got me again. I can't compete with you in sword fighting, Salem.
Well, if it's any consolation, your Highness, I am an aspiring guard.
I ought to be stronger than you, Prince.
What's the commotion at the gate?
Prince Shura!

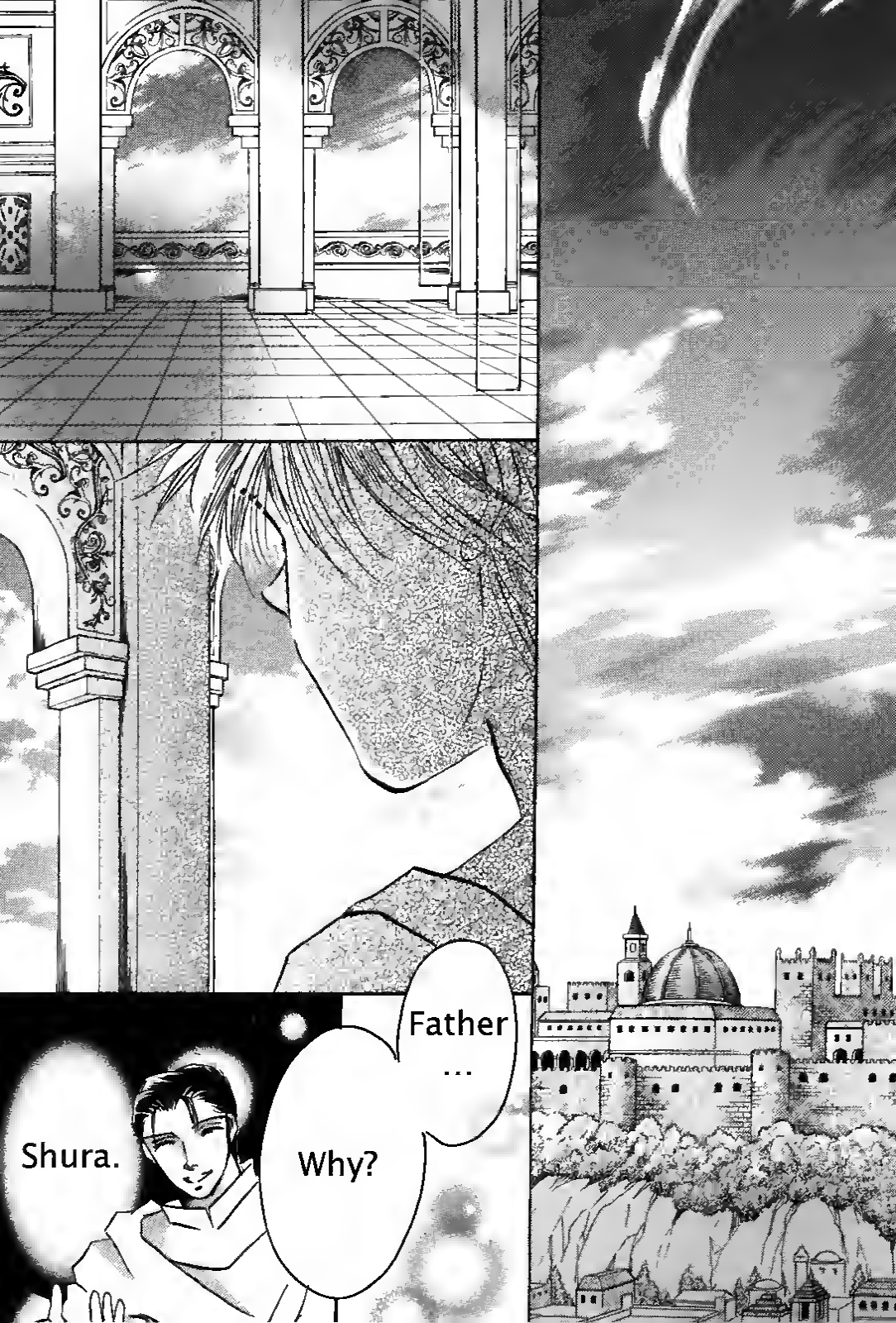
The Desert Peace Treaty has been broken. Murad-abird forced their way into Esfahan.
The post rider has arrived with a message!
What is it?
King Elle Sadeen was killed in Muradabird where he was visiting.
It was King Muzaharu's ploy!!

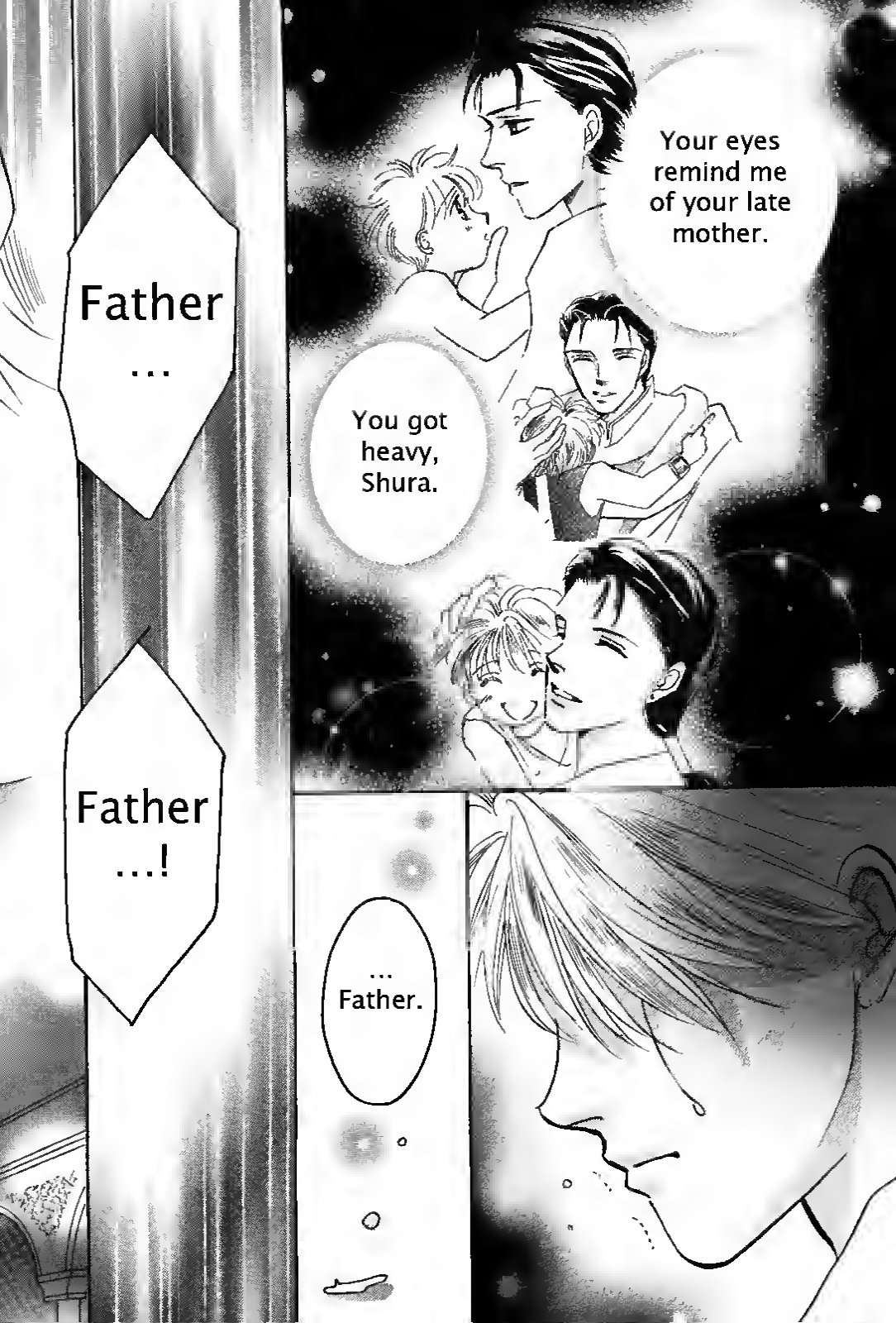
He was invited to their Palace. It was a decoy. Their purpose was to slay our King.
Striking him when his guard is down... That's low, Muzaharu!!
Father!
Elle Sadeen is dead...
Muradabird's troops got past the east border and captured the city of Gazara!!

Calm down!!
People are reeling from the news of the King's death!!
Prince Shura!!
We do not falter!!
Call the soldiers to arms!! Tell them to stand ready!!
Tomor-row morning, we're leaving for Gazara!

I'm taking comand of the army!!
Our goal is to exact retribution for the killing of my father and rescue Gazara before it falls into the hands of our enemies!!
おぉ!
My...
Please command us, Prince Shura. That would surely calm the anxiety that permeates the country.
It's so glorious to see such courage in our prince at the tender age of 14...If the Virdia heads the army, it will lift morale!!

Prince.
Prince Shura is taking command!! Let people know that Prince Shura is leading the army!!
Call everyone to arms immediately!!
Alshe.
Good call.
Will you give me a moment to myself?
Don't let anyone in the King's room.
...Very good.


Father
...
Why?
Shura.


Father
...
Father
...!
Your eyes remind me of your late mother.
You got heavy, Shura.
...
Father.

Father
...!!

Listen, Shura.
A King's job is not to reign over the people.
It is to devote himself to the protection of his people.

Never...!
Don't ever forget that.

1200 in Annatour calendar. Muradabird broke the Peace Oath and declared war against Esfahan.
The Esfahan troops, led by Prince Shura, thwarted them once but Muradabird continued to carry out many attacks on Esfahan.
It did the Alliance great harm, creating conflicts among neighboring countries, turning the desert into a battlefield.

1203, in Annatour calendar
You don't look familiar.
What are you doing?
Maruta Rashool. I'm a new Court maid. I've just entered my service at the Palace.
Oh.
You're Salam Read, a member of the Court Guard.
I was going to take this flower to Prince Shura's bedroom ...
Flower?

The war is taking a toll on the prince. Even a young maid like her notices the strain on his face.
How thoughtful of you.
Oh!!
Thank you...
The country is in a perpetual warzone. It must be really hard on Prince Shura.
I thought a flower might bring a little comfort...
Now they're alert and tense. Those eyes do not belong to a child.
He used to run around like other boys his age, carefree, spontaneous, always with a twinkle in his eyes.
He's enduring in silence, carrying the weight of duty to this country as the Virdia.
Salem.
Are you familiar with the prophesy book and the Silver Meshina?

Silver Meshina?
Yes. It's the talk of every street in town.
As our founder Romaira explained it in his book of prophe-sy...
...When there is a war in the desert, the Silver Star will send the Meshina our way...
...to restore peace to the desert.
I hope it comes true.
I hope Meshina comes and aids Prince Shura.
Silver Meshina...
Wouldn't it be great if...
...the prophesy was real?

UGH
It's a trap!!
Watch out, father!!
ZASH
Father!!
It was a dream...

We're still yet to defeat Muzaharu.
Two years has passed since my father's death.
What's that star...?
Prince Shura.
It's Romaira's guiding star.
Guiding star?

When there is a war in the desert and red blood spills on the sands, a silver star will appear in the west sky.
The Silver Star will guide the savior to the desert so she can brings back peace.
According to Romaira, the founder of Annatour...
The Silver Meshina...!
DA-BUMP
Subtle and foreign...
What was that feeling...?
Is everything okay, Prince Shura?

It felt like someone's heart beat.
It came and went like a blink of the silver Star.
In the western desert.
Prince?
Tomorrow...
The Meshina will appear in the western desert.

You had a vision...
Prince ...

This way, Alshe.
I can feel it.
I can feel the pounding of her heart!!
Prince!! Can you see that...?!!

ZSH
BRRR...
It's a girl...

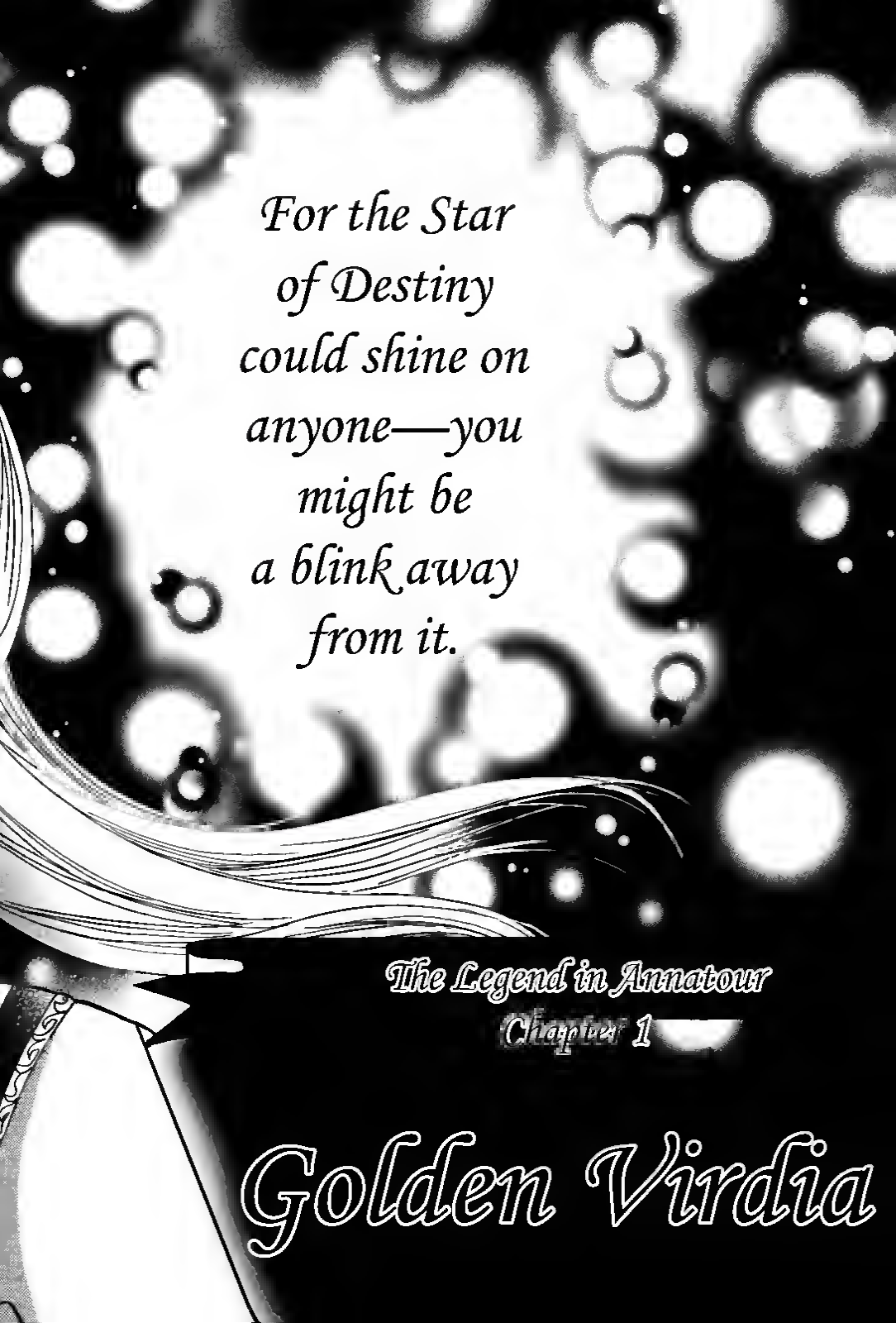
Could she be the Meshina...?
Uh...
So...
Cer-tainly.
Get water, Alshe!
She's dehyd-rated.

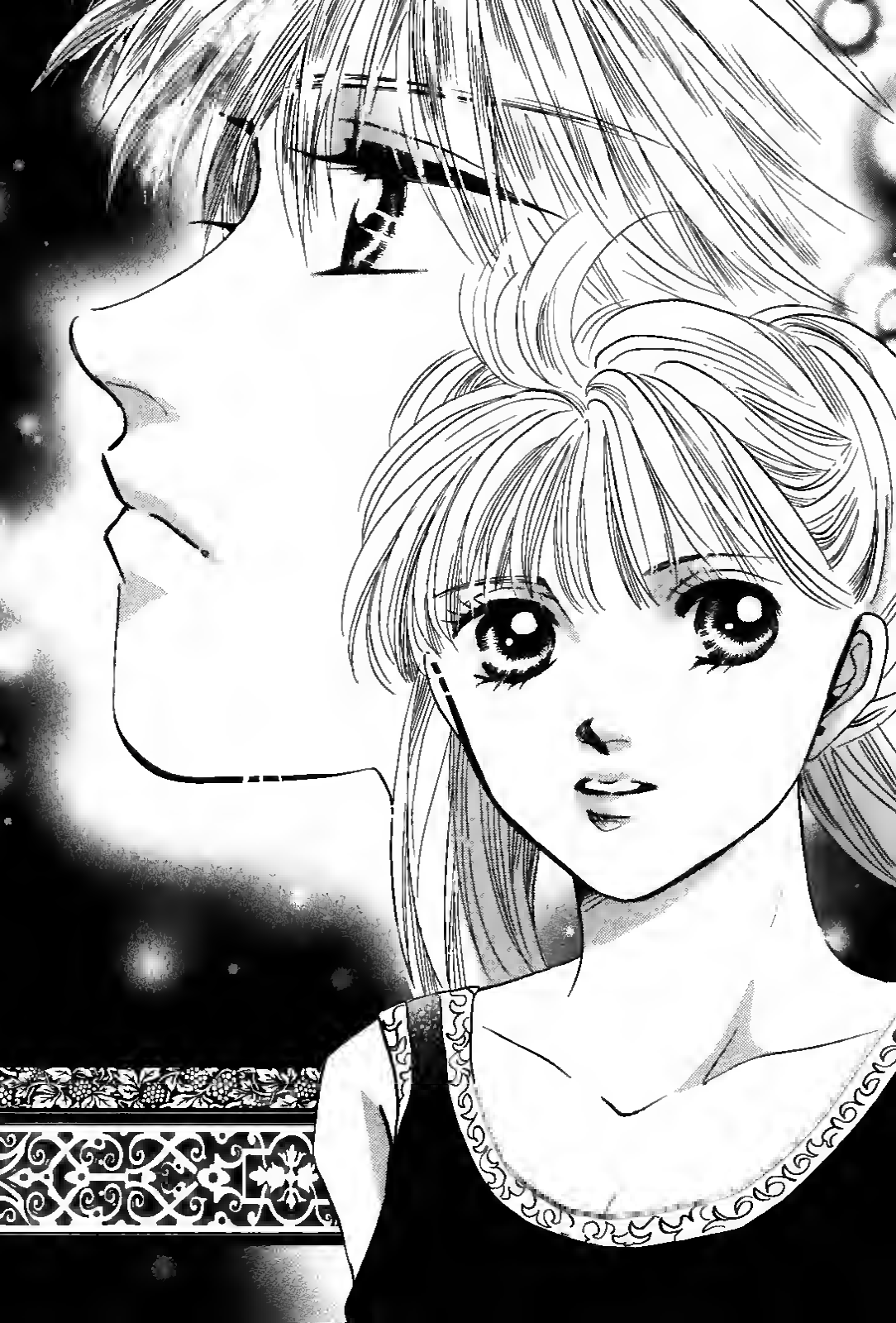
...the
story
begins.

أساطير

أقدار

Who are they to say
that there is no story
for you?
Who are they to say
that
the door into the
wonderland you've
been hearing about,
remains closed to you?

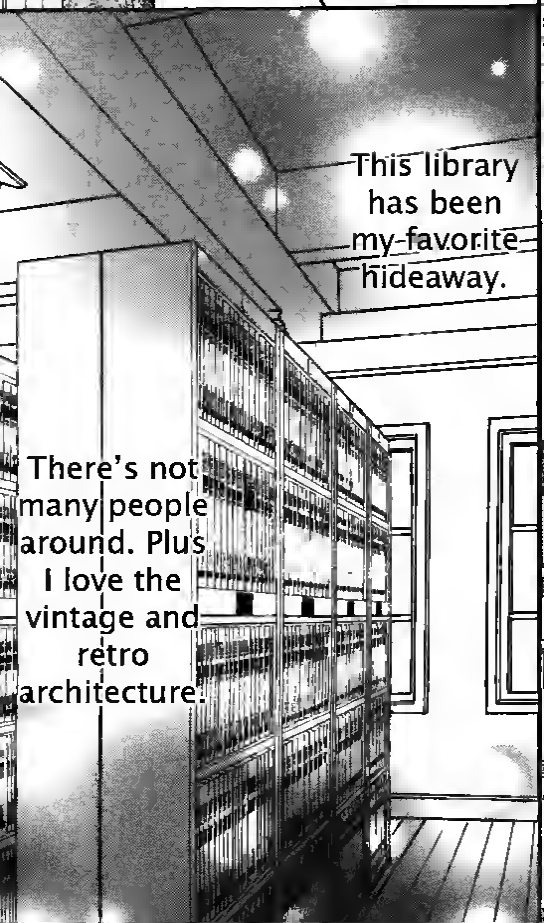

For the Star
of Destiny
could shine on
anyone—you
might be
a blink away
from it.
The Legend in Annatour
Chapter 1
Golden Virdia



Yuna!
Yuina Suzuki, Age 16, freshman at Seika Female Private High School
We're meeting up with boys from N High for karaoke. You want to come?
We need one more girl.
Thanks
But I'll pass.

I told you she wouldn't come.
It was a no?
Aw.
Too bad.
Thanks for asking. Have fun.
I have to go to the library.
She thinks she's better than us.
What a bore.
Like that makes her smarter than us. She doesn't have to say it. It's written on her face.
Yuna couldn't get into K High and had to settle for this school.
Who do you think she is? Why come at all? No one's forcing her.
Obviously she's too awesome for this school.

She wasn't like that in junior high...
We went to the same school.
Boring.
I wouldn't be here if I had a choice!
Seika Private Female High School
They're so boring. Always talking about boys. Is that all they think about?
Checking their mobile phones for text messages every few minutes. Nothing urgent, that's for sure.


This library has been my favorite hideaway.
There's not many people around. Plus I love the vintage and retro architecture.

The world is full of stupid people.

The foreign books section is always empty.
Nice and quiet.
I couldn't get into the high school of my choice.
My life pretty much ended in the spring when I was fifteen...
I'm so sorry, Yuna.
You failed. Move on.
You didn't try hard enough.
We should've considered a better school for a safety net.
You applied for K High?
Wow, you're smart!

I want to get away.
I feel like I don't belong anywhere. Not in school, not at home.
This old library is the only place I feel at home. It's kind of my sanctuary.
Away from this life. Far away from here.
I've never noticed this book.
Unfamiliar language.

It's written in a language I don't recognize and I'm reading it.
How can that be?
The Legend in Annatour...
Let the Star guide.
Chosen one.
The star will take you...
...to the land that lies far, far away in time and distance.

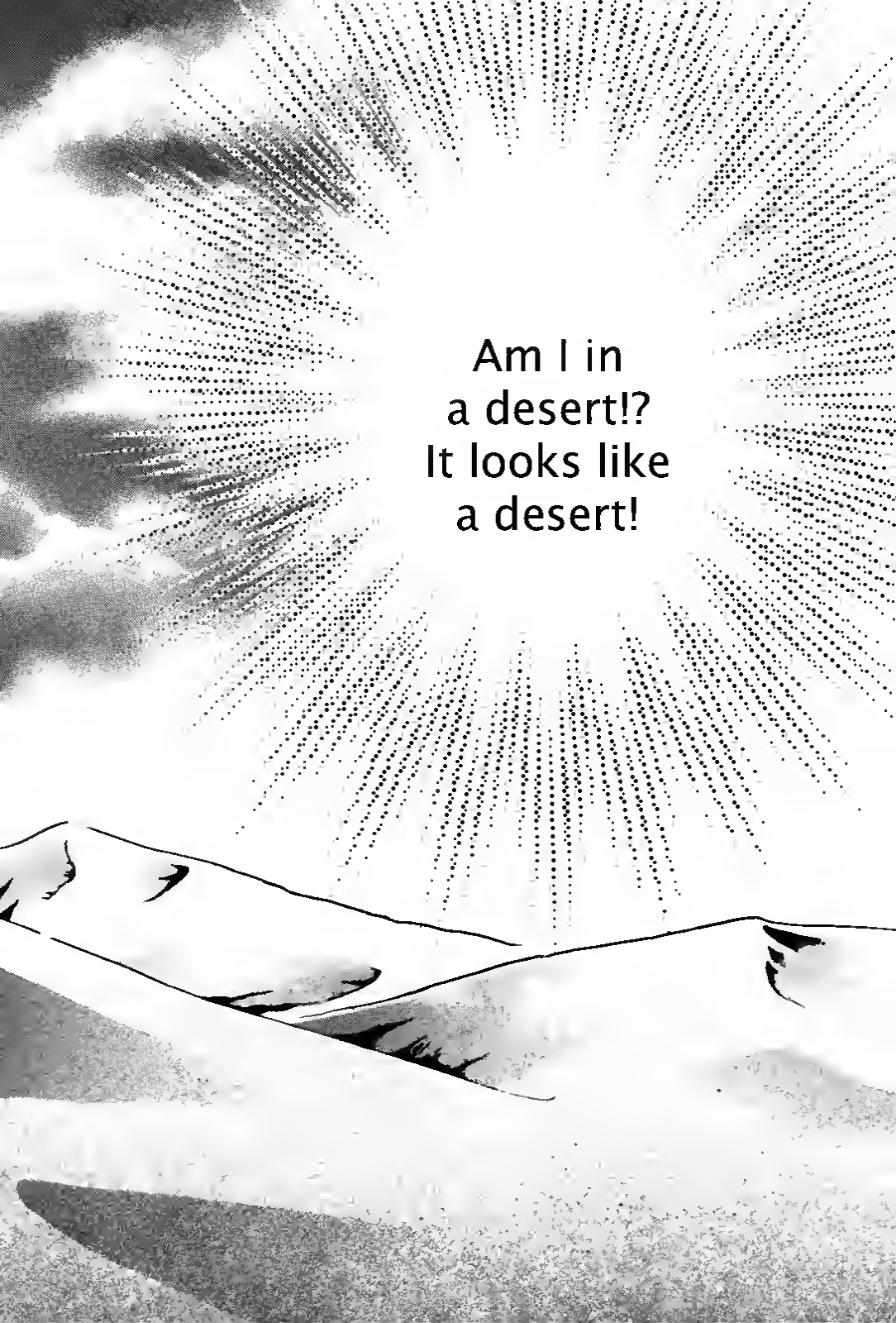
Chosen one?
FLAASH
Let the Star guide.
Oh...!
Cho-sen one.

A voice...It's speaking to me...
!?
FLAAASH
If you hold those two precious things near to your heart...

The Star will take you...
...to the land.

Hmm...

ZZSH
!!
What was that?
Uh... Blin- ding!!
Where... am I?
AW!
WOOSH
What?


Am I in
a desert!?
It looks like
a desert!

Oh, great...
How did I get here...!?
One minute I was in the library, read-ing...
What!?
AW
Given the heat, it's not a dream.

I have to get out of here before I get mummified!!
Just a vast stretch of desert.
Not a sign of civilization in sight. Not even an oasis...
You've got to be kidding...
SLUMP
I can't ...
Water...
SIGH
I'm going to die...
Really?
THUD

Just like that? Am I going to die?
My eyes are getting blurry. Not a good sign...
In the middle of nowhere.
Without the faintest idea of what's happening to me...?
Hold on...
What is going on?
What have I done to deserve this?

Someone's coming...
ZSH
BRRRR
Hey! Are you all right?!
Hang in there!!
A boy's voice.
OHMI-GOD!!
The most beautiful man I've ever seen is hove-ring over me! And he's blond...

COOL
Oh.
Oh, no... Going dark...
Right away.
Get water, Alshe!
She's dehydrated.
Is he a mirage?
Is he...
...kissing me?
Don't wake me up.

Oh?
Where am I now?
Uh...
Ugh... my head!
Look who's awake.
Take me to heaven...

A remarkably quick recovery, considering she was dying earlier.
Eh?
He did not just call him that! Or am I still in a dream!?
The situation was dire but your swift action made all the difference, Prince Shura.
One minute late and we could have lost her.
Prince!?
My...will you look at this place?
Swanky.

Who are these people?!
So, Alshe...
Do you really think she's the One found in the book of prophecy?
Yes, Prince Shura.
The Silver Meshina?
The girl is definitely the Silver Meshina in the Romaira's book...
I am most certain.
CRINGE
CRINGE
EEEK. Whatever's going on in their world!
...I think.
Not 100% sure.
You.

Prince... Yeah, right!
State your name.
I am Shura Sadeen, the prince of Esfahan.
Is he the real deal...?
I'm Yuina Suzuki!
Call me Yuna.
Sitting up.
Whether you're the Silver Meshina or not, it doesn't matter.
I don't need aid from a woman
All my friends do...
So... Yuna, was it?
HUMPH

I can take care of my country!!
Prince Shura!!
Please forgive us, Lady Yuna.
He gave a speech and stomped off.
Is it something I said?
What's up with him?

Let me explain where we stand.
I am Alshe Lacid, the first retainer of Prince Shura.
So polite...
I'd like to ask a question.
Yes, Lady Yuna?
Um... Mr. Alshe?
Like it's second nature to me.
How come I understand what you're saying?
I don't speak your language.
Perhaps it's because you're the "Chosen One."

Chosen...?

Annatour is a world that exists on a different plane from where I live.

Alshe goes on to fill me in...

The allies had maintained peace and order under the ruling of the former King of Esfahan, Prince Shura's father...

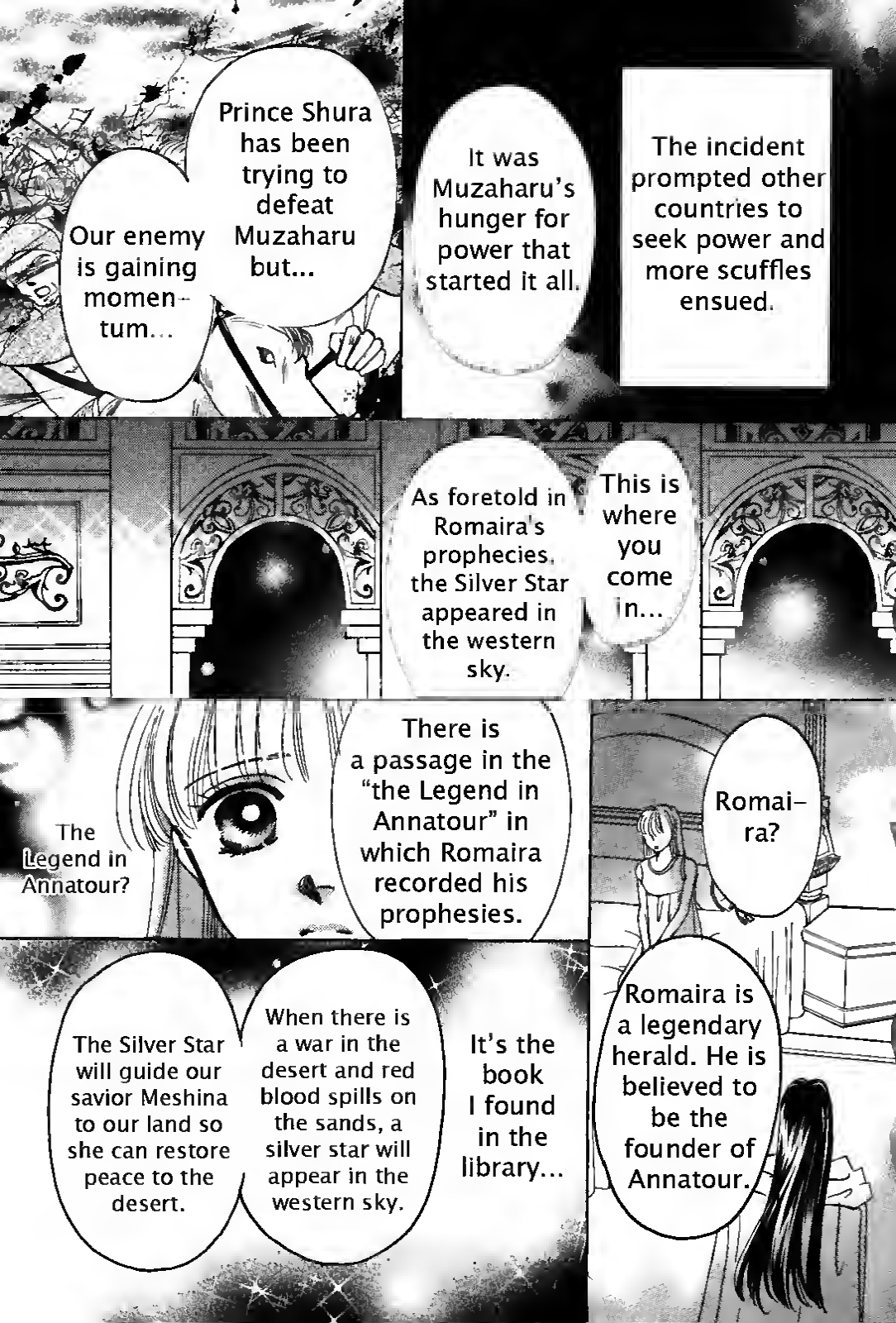
Esfahan is the leading country in the Desert Alliance.

This world...It's called Annatour in our language.

The King of Esfahan was killed in an ambush, a plot by the scheming King of Muradabird.

...when Muradabird waged war against us. Muradabird had been bent on expanding their realm in the eastern desert.

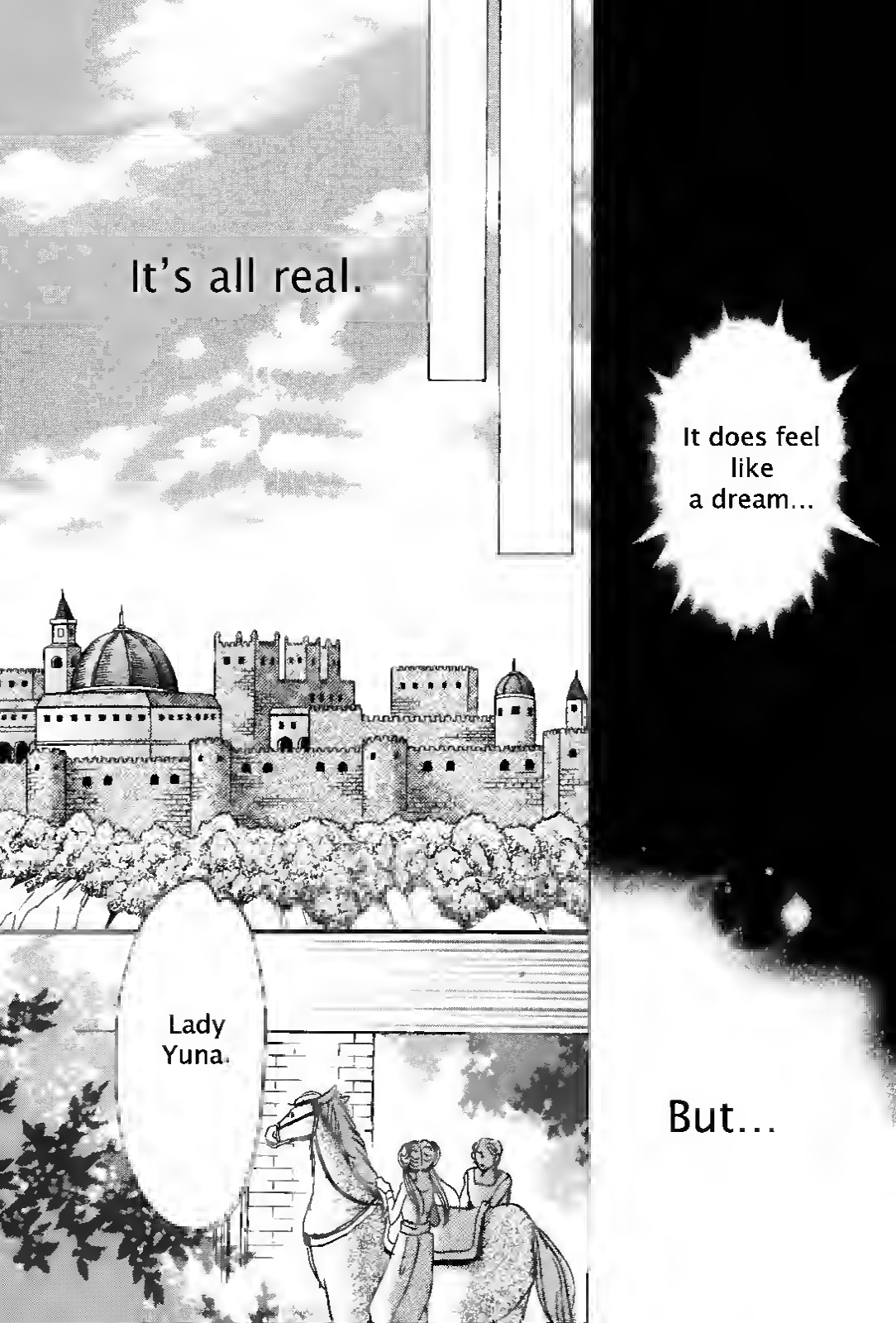
...until two years ago...


Prince Shura has been trying to defeat Muzaharu but...
Our enemy is gaining momentum...
It was Muzaharu's hunger for power that started it all.
The incident prompted other countries to seek power and more scuffles ensued.
As foretold in Romaira's prophecies, the Silver Star appeared in the western sky.
This is where you come in...
The Legend in Annatour?
There is a passage in the "the Legend in Annatour" in which Romaira recorded his prophesies.
Romaira?
The Silver Star will guide our savior Meshina to our land so she can restore peace to the desert.
When there is a war in the desert and red blood spills on the sands, a silver star will appear in the western sky.
It's the book I found in the library...
Romaira is a legendary herald. He is believed to be the founder of Annatour.

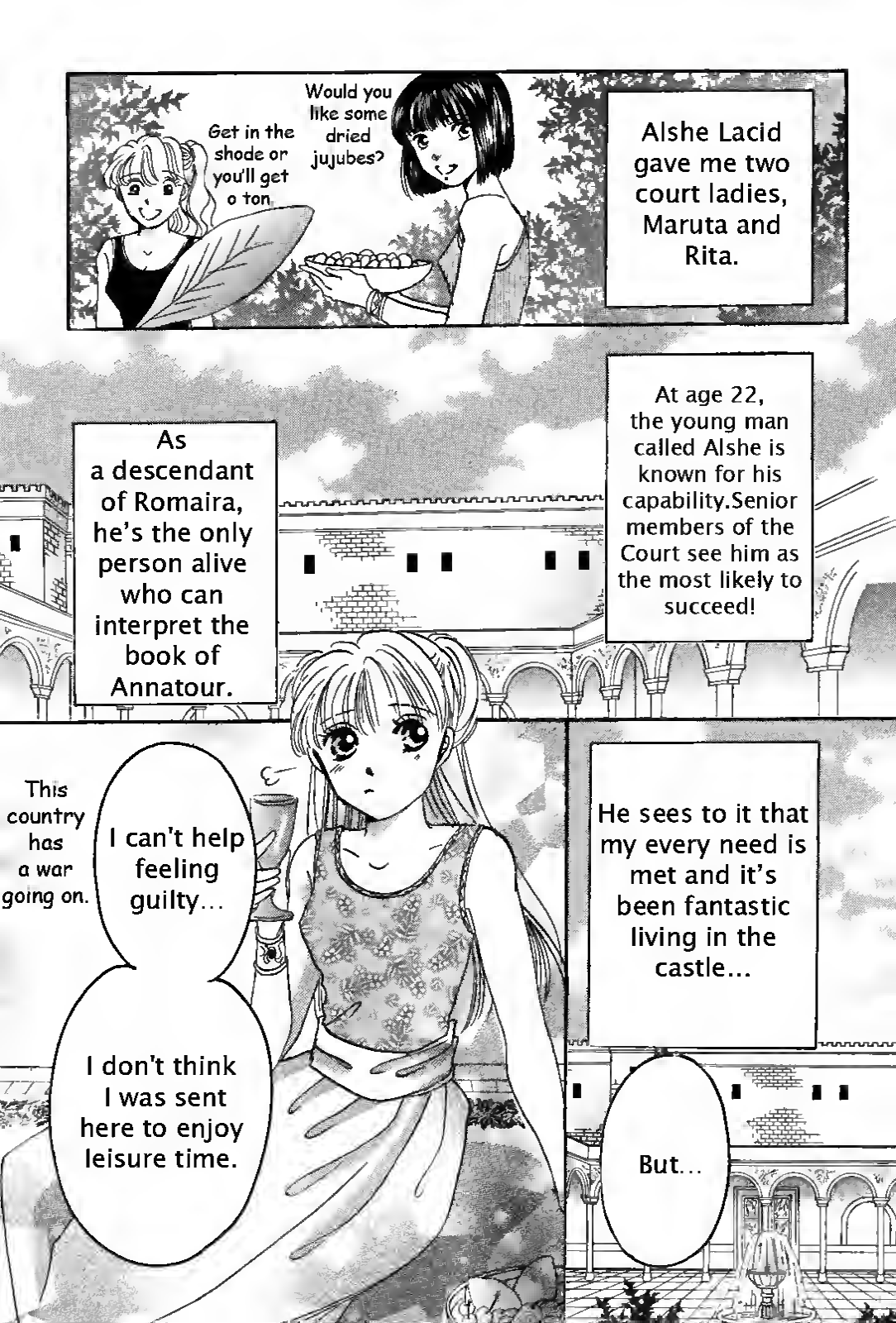
Erm...
...and the next day we found you in the western desert, Lady Yuna.
True to Romaira's words, we saw a Silver Star in the western sky...
No...
Still trying to wrap my head around it, but apparently this isn't a dream. That much is clear.
One more ques-tion...
When can I return to my world?
That is up to the Silver Star, my dear.
Excuse me?
Per-haps...
...you're meant to be here until peace is restored...
!!

I have to stay until they make peace!?
Don't I get a say in this!!?
You've got to be kidding!!
Let me get this straight...
So matter-of-factly!!
TWITCH
LIGHT-HEADED
My Lady Yuna!
Unbelievable.

This cannot be happening!
But alas, it is...
And now they're tell-ing me I'm their savior!
I stumbled on a book in the library. I opened it and was whisked away into another dimension.
I nearly died in the desert.
And Prince Beauty, in shining armor, came to my rescue.
Oh, and there was a kiss...
Maybe I dreamt it.


It's all real.
It does feel like a dream...
Lady Yuna.
But...

How was your riding lesson today? Had fun?
There's tea ready for you.
Thanks, Maruta and Rita.
PHEW
What a lovely day.
It's so comfy and relaxing in the castle you forget you're in a desert.
The capital of Esfahan has the Lake of Saharu.
The water provides an abundance of rich natural resources.
Thanks to the lake, Esfahan is the most beautiful and affluent country in the desert.
It's been a week since my arrival to Annatour.
I'm settling into my new life just fine.


Get in the shode or you'll get o ton
Would you like some dried jujubes?
Alshe Lacid gave me two court ladies, Maruta and Rita.
As a descendant of Romaira, he's the only person alive who can interpret the book of Annatour.
At age 22, the young man called Alshe is known for his capability.Senior members of the Court see him as the most likely to succeed!
This country has a war going on.
I can't help feeling guilty...
I don't think I was sent here to enjoy leisure time.
He sees to it that my every need is met and it's been fantastic living in the castle...
But...

Nonsense, Lady Yuna.
The people of Esfahan are all thrilled to welcome the Meshina.
Look at me. I'm no one special. Just an ordinary high school student from Japan.
First of all, why me? Why did the Silver Star pick me for its plan? It sounds very important and I'm hardly qualified.
High school?
Japan?
...the end of the chaos is finally in sight.
So is Virdia, King of Desert. With your help and his power...
There will be a boy born to the land with the blessings of the rising sun. The golden prince will grow up to become a formidable King who guards the desert and brings prosperity to his people.
Golden Vardia, huh...
So the book of Annatour says...

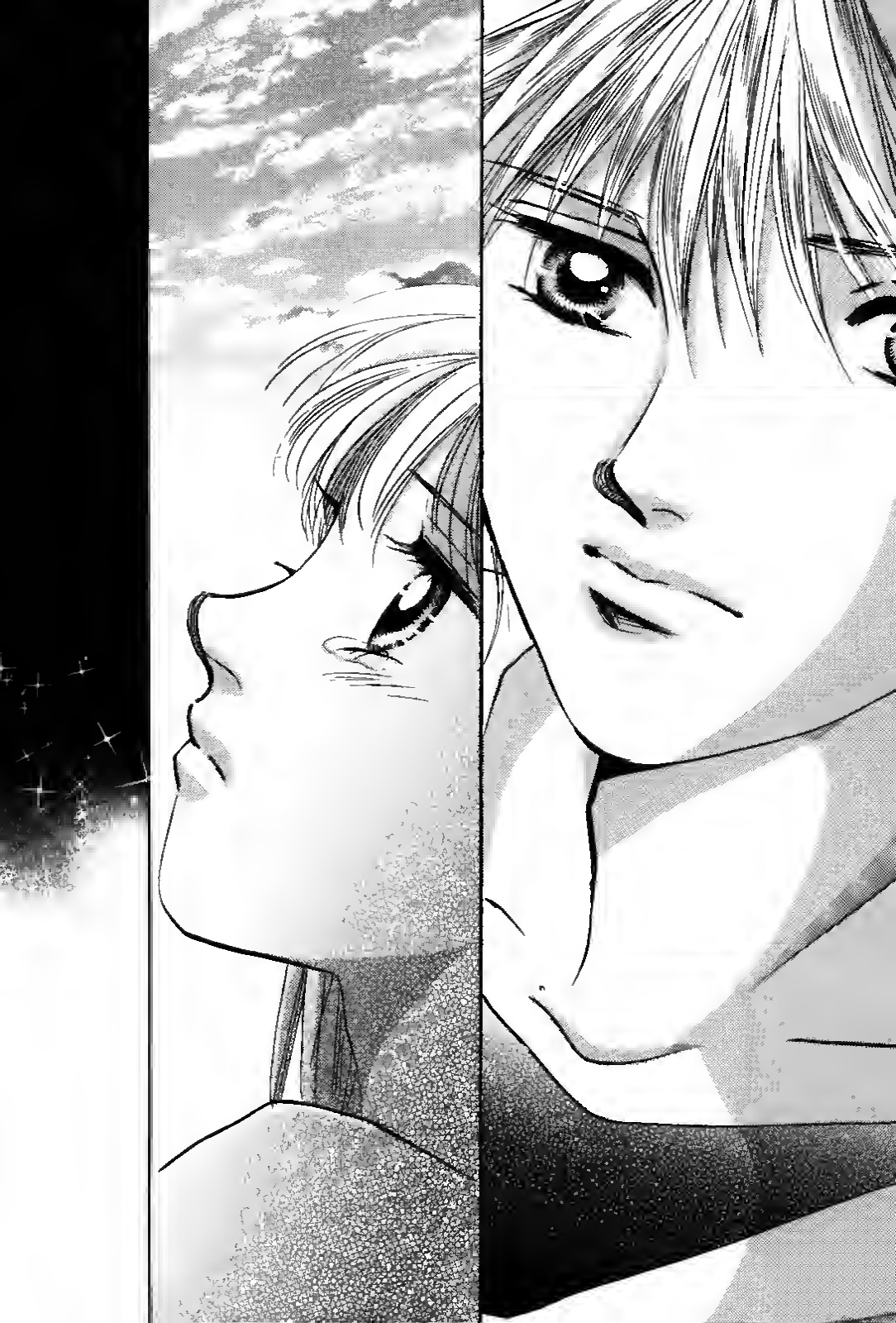
His late mother Princess Shuria was from a northern Principality of Shilfard. He got her hair.
Other people I've seen so far all have dark or brown hair.
Prince Shura has blond hair, doesn't he?
And oh those green eyes
Such dedication and love.
Queen Shuria died shortly after giving birth to Prince Shura, but he never loved another, not even a mistress.
The former King Elle Sadeen married a princess from a foreign land against protest...
...Prince Shura is nearly seventeen.
Our law states that he cannot succeed until seventeen but...
How we've longed for this day...!
That makes Prince Shura the sole heir to the throne.
Is that right?
The anticipation must be huge.
He is!

Prince Shura a.k.a Vardia.
The Esfahan people love and worship the Golden Prince as the nation's hope.
But...
"I can take care of my country!"
I haven't seen him since that day.
He hasn't even come around to say hello.

SIGH
Sunset in the desert is gor-geous! Look at the colors.
It's nothing like I've seen in Japan.
Why does that make me so mad?

I wonder how my mom and dad are doing.
They must be worried sick.
Probably they think their disappoin-ting daughter ran away.
Away from the crushing boredom...
...at school and at home.
I wanted to run away. Far, far away.
That's what I wanted to do for a long time. I needed to get away.
Though not as far away as an alternate universe!!

What the voice said...
I wonder what it meant by "two precious things."
Silver Star. Why me?
If you hold those two previous things to your heart...
...the Star will take you to the land.



Open the gate!!
Prince Shura has returned safely!!
Carry the injured to the hut!!
They get the first priority!! Give them medical attention.

Prince Shura and his army have returned from a battle against Muradabird troops.
Lady Yuna.
Has something happened?
There's a bustle from the gate.
All females in the palace have been called out to assist them.
The fighting was fierce and many were injured.
It is not a suitable task for you, Lady Yuna.
I'm afraid we can't!
Take me, too.
So if you'll excuse us...
Let me help!!
Wait!

There must be something I can do.
The Star didn't send me here for nothing!
If I am indeed the Chosen One...
Oh, no...

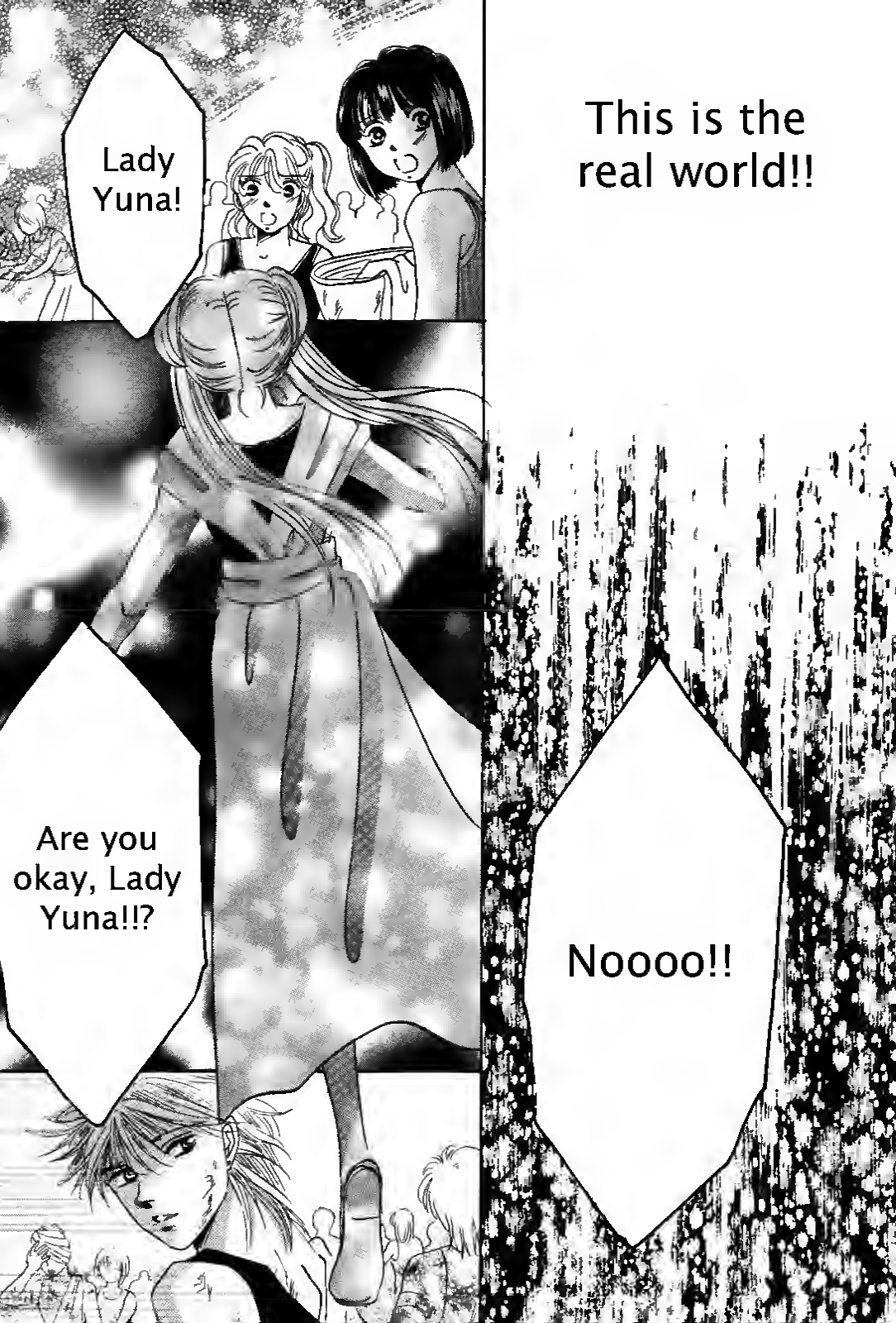
Gosh...
The stench of blood.
The agonized cries.
This is too much...

I can't move...
What are you doing here?
DA-BUMP
Prince Shura!

Just trying to be useful... I can help patch them up.
Not a good idea.
I command you to retreat!
I know how to treat a wound!!
What do you take me for!!?

I'm here to help, Maruta!
Lady Yuna.
Don't give me that look, Prince Lofty!!
Okay...can you tend to this soldier?
!
CRINGE
Horrible...
I'll get medi-cine.

The bone is peeking.
How appalling.
NGH
No...
This is what war does to people.
The smell of blood is every-where.


Lady Yuna!
Are you okay, Lady Yuna!!?
This is the real world!!
Noooo!!

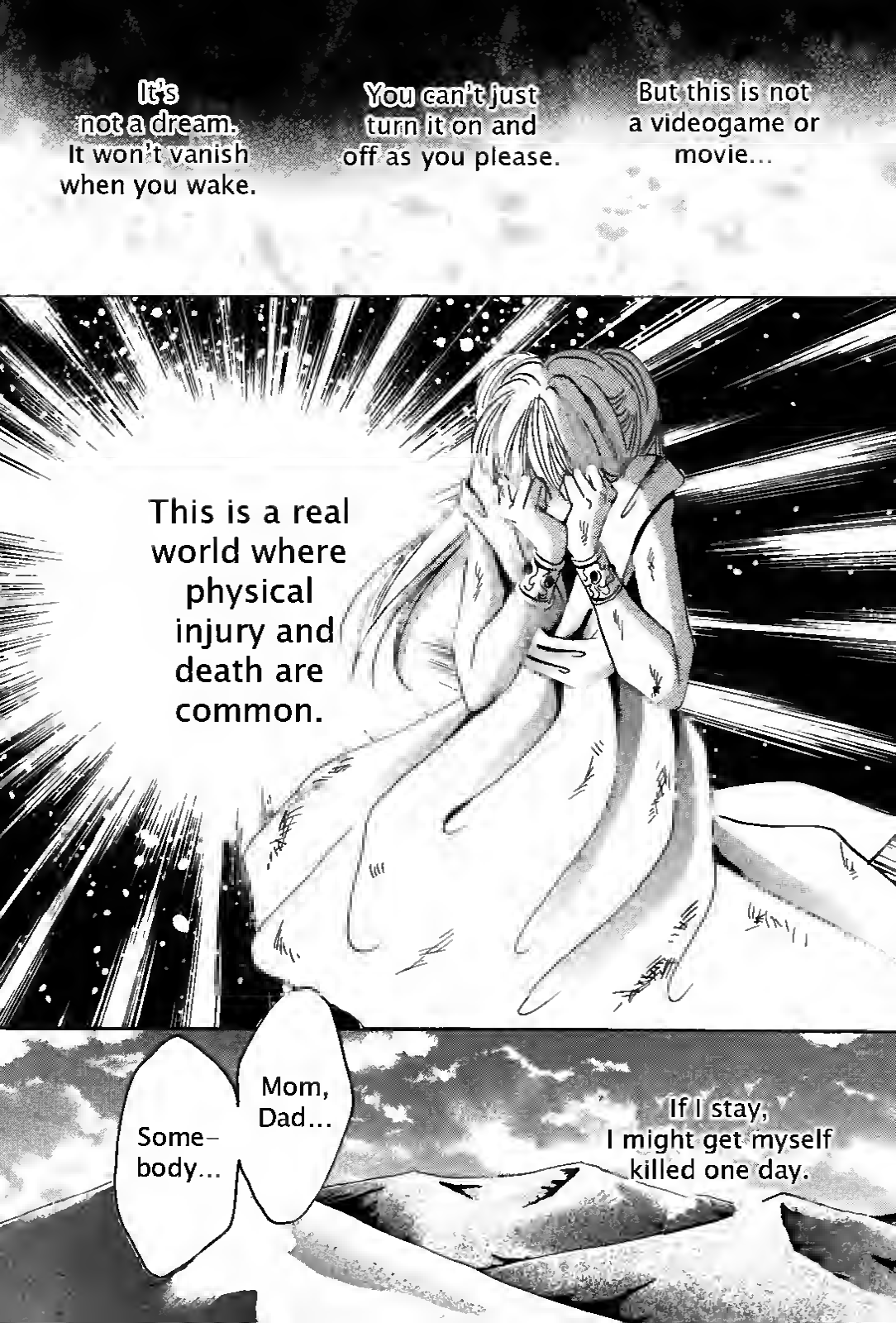
No more!!
Lady Yuna.
Not another minute!

BRRRR
WHOA
Horse! I need a horse!!
Okay, here it is.
But to where?
Lady Yuna!
I want to go home!!
Back to my world.

Maybe if I go back to the desert, where they found me...
I was drawn to this world by...
...the brightest star in the western sky.
WHIIINN
...the Star will lead me home!
THUD
AH!
AW
UH...

The horse got away.
Hey... Wait up!!
What am I doing...?
Silly!

Oh, well.
Deeper and deeper.
...and got stranded in the desert.
I rushed out in a blind panic...
Even if I can find my way back to the western desert, there is no guarantee I can return to Japan.
What have I got myself into?
...with people tending to my every need in that fabulously swanky castle.
There I was, an ordinary high school student, praised as the Savior.
The whole thing felt like a dream.
None of it felt real until...
First, I was transported here and... It was surreal. It was a shock.


It's not a dream. It won't vanish when you wake.
You can't just turn it on and off as you please.
But this is not a videogame or movie...
This is a real world where physical injury and death are common.
Mom, Dad...
Some-body...
If I stay, I might get myself killed one day.

Help!
Hey.
What are you doing here?

Prince
Shura!

He's been looking for me...
I fell...and it ran away.
Where were you headed anyway?
What's happened to the horse?
Grr, that lofty tone again!
...I was trying to get to the western desert.
To the west? Why?
So I can go home!!
Just let me go home. I don't want to be here!!

I was born in a peaceful, safe country called Japan in the 20th century!!
The fighting, the murdering! It's sickening.
The prophesy doesn't mean anything to me!!
First of all I didn't ask for any of this. I was dragged into it!
You kill people in the name of your cause.
That's right!!
Murde-ring?
You're murderers. All of you!!
To what end? To protect your country?
Doesn't that make Muzaharu justifiable, too?

NGH
CRINGE
How dare you...!
PLOT
!?
Are you hurt!?
You're bleeding ...
Prince Shura!?

Let me have a look.
No. Don't touch me!
Please!
No, it's not!!
Just an open wound.
It's nothing!
Your safety is a matter of concern to all citizens!
No need for bravery right now!!
The bleeding has stopped.
There.
I used the scarf as a bandage.

I was so focused on what I was doing...
Funny... The blood didn't scare me.
Look at him. He's in tatters.
He must be exhausted and yet he came looking for me.
...Prince Shura.
Why did you come alone?

You're injured badly.
Why didn't you send out a search party or something?
The soldiers need rest right now.
It's a one man's job. You're not that hard to find.
Oh...?

What part of that do you find amusing?
Nothing!
SNICKER
He even talks like one.
That look right there. He's a normal teenage boy, defiant and sullen.
Oh.
Now I get it.
He's not some haughty prince who sits pretty.
?
... his good looks or his blond mane...
The people of Esfahan don't adore the Vardia for...
It's because...
...he has what it takes to be King.
So many injuries...
His body bears witness to his bravery with which he led his army and fought.

His grace and strength...
...shine so sincere.
Yuna.
DA--
BUMP
Let's get back to the palace.
It's too dangerous to stay.
Oh.
...!
We've got company.
BRRRR...
Animals roam around in search of their prey during the night.
WHIIINN
It's the first time he called my name properly...

He...?
He must've smelt my blood.
BRR
Who?
SNARL
Something's in the dark of night.
ROAR
HIIIS
!!

ROAR
Black panther!
ARGH
PUSH
Yuna!!
Stay back!!
!!

Prince ...!
BWAA
He's in no condition to confront a wild animal.

FWISH
SNARL
ROAR
BASH
...!!

THUD
!!
My sword...!!
WHOA
ROAR
UGH...
Prince!!

What...?
Run!!
Get the horse and run!!
Quickly... Now!!
He is the future King.
What is he saying?
But ...
To Vardia, a beacon of hope.

How can I turn around...
SLAASH
...and leave him to die?!!
ROAR

SNARL
Yuna!!
I protect him!!

Even if...
...it costs my life!!
STAB

Yuna!!
UH
...

Prince...
The gash has opened up again.
I'll bind that up for you.

You're something else, you know that?
There. Finally a smile.
Yuna!!

HEH-HEH
I feel like all the strength has gone out of me.
I'm shaking ...
Are you all right!?
Prince...

I didn't know...
UH...
WAAAAH
...his eyes were...
...such a soft shade of green.
Yuna?

Silver Meshina, huh.
What is she, twelve?
She cried herself to sleep.
She surprised me back there, though...

UM...It's bright.
Where am I?
Oh?
I'm in the desert!!
I fell asleep in his arms last night.
I remembered!
!!
WOOSH

Prince ...?
What am I, twelve?
EEK
There will be a boy born to the land with the blessings of the rising sun.

Yuna.
The golden prince will grow up to be a formidable King...
...who guards the desert and brings prosperity to his people.
What about you? How's the wound?
Did I sleep in his lap? I think I did.
...yep.
Sleep well?
Nothing I can't handle!!

We spent the night in the desert. They must be out of their minds not knowing where we are.
Let's go home.
BRRR
He never lets his weakness show in the most dire moments.
The defiant look again.
Yuna.
Just let me go home. I don't want to be here!!
So I can go home!!
To get me back?
I will have Alshe look into the Legend in Annatour more closely.
What if...
...harm comes to you because of our war?
The danger here is great. You never know what terror is around the next corner.
Oh...
It might reveal something to help us get you back.
Prince...

Prince...
For whatever the cause or reason, we take lives of others.
You are right.
War is about killing.
I am a killer just like King Muzaharu.
If I could take back what I said yesterday...
...I would.
Get on.
We'd better get moving before the sun goes up.

That doesn't mean he doesn't feel every bit of pain others feel.
Yes, he has a country to protect.
Of course it's hard for him.
His gaze remains unflinching...
...daunts him.
But it never...
Sometimes war is the only solution to conflicts.
Prince Shura.
...even when he's nervous.
...or feels sad...
...and overwhelmed.

I want in...
Yuna.
I still don't approve!
There's no justifying taking the lives of other people.
But that's all the more reason for you to fight.
You fight to make the world a better place.

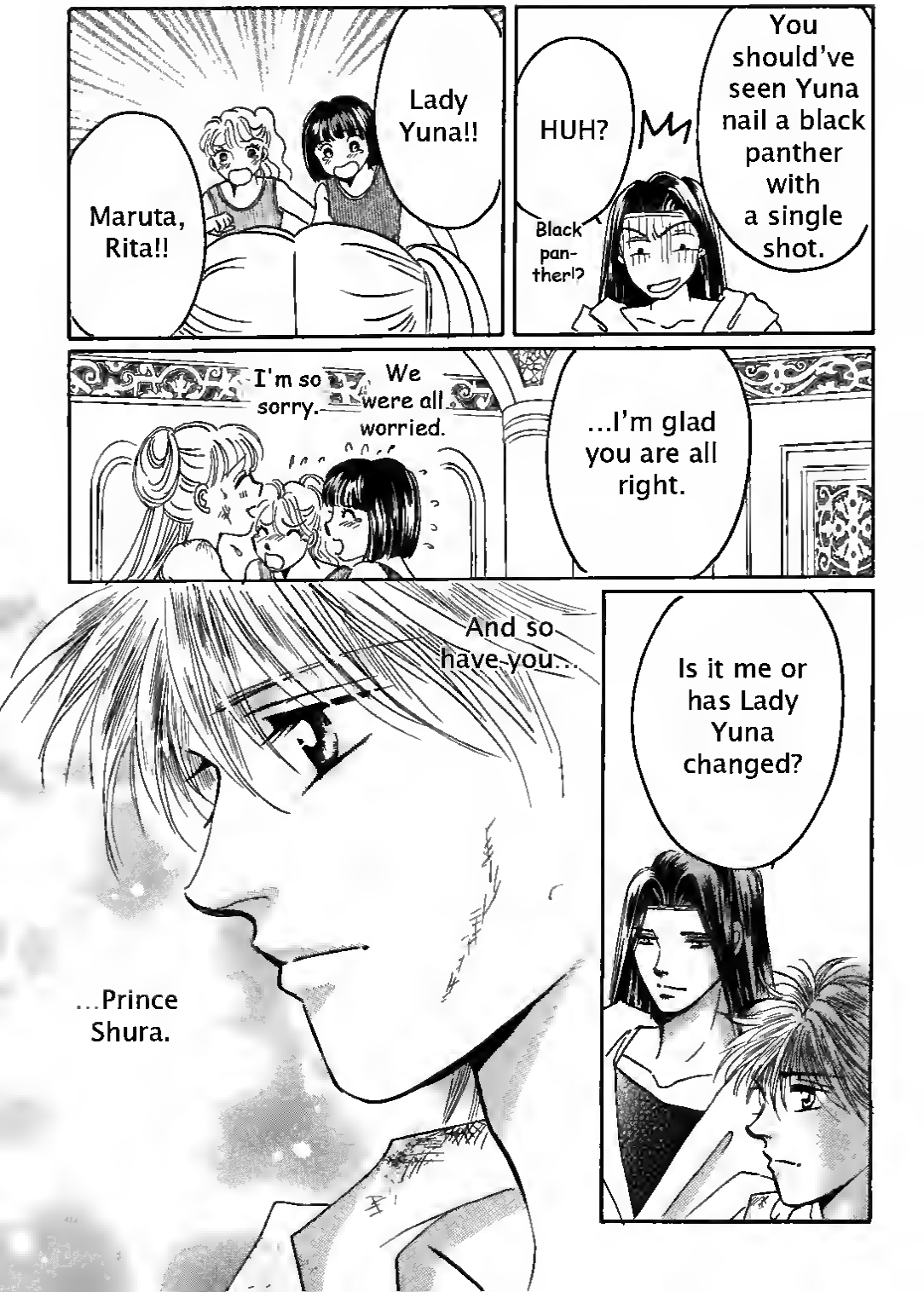
I...I've been always running away.
The first sign of trouble, I take to my heels.
I moan and complain but do nothing to make things better.
No more running!
You have to let me in.

I want to fight. Will you let me, Prince Shura?
I'm still not sure about my calling.
See, I'm hardly qualified. I don't have that kind of power, but...
If there's a chance I can help put an end to the war.

Yuna.

Now I know why...
...the Silver Star chose you.

The pair of you.
My bad, Alshe.
But here we are, in one piece.
What were you thinking?! You had me so worried!
Camping out in the desert? I'm surprised you made it out alive!!


Lady Yuna!!
Maruta, Rita!!
You should've seen Yuna nail a black panther with a single shot.
HUH?
Black pan-ther!?
I'm so sorry.
We were all worried.
...I'm glad you are all right.
And so have you...
...Prince Shura.
Is it me or has Lady Yuna changed?

CLINK
CLINK
CLINK
Halt!!
Lady Yuna, you're catching up fast.

Would you like some tea?
Lady Yuna.
That was just luck...
Wait.
Your heroic deed hasn't gone unnoticed
You're cut out for it. After all this is a lady who took down a wild panther with one shot.
Chances are, you won't have to use a sword but...
...you can learn how to use it for defense. No harm in it.
His name is Salem Read, a member of the Court Guard and the prince's confidant.
Killing another human being...That's where I draw the line.
I really appreciate your help, though.
...I can't imagine drawing a sword on a person.
I know ...but ...
Lady Yuna.
Do you know what the phrase "the Esfahan's Sword" stands for?

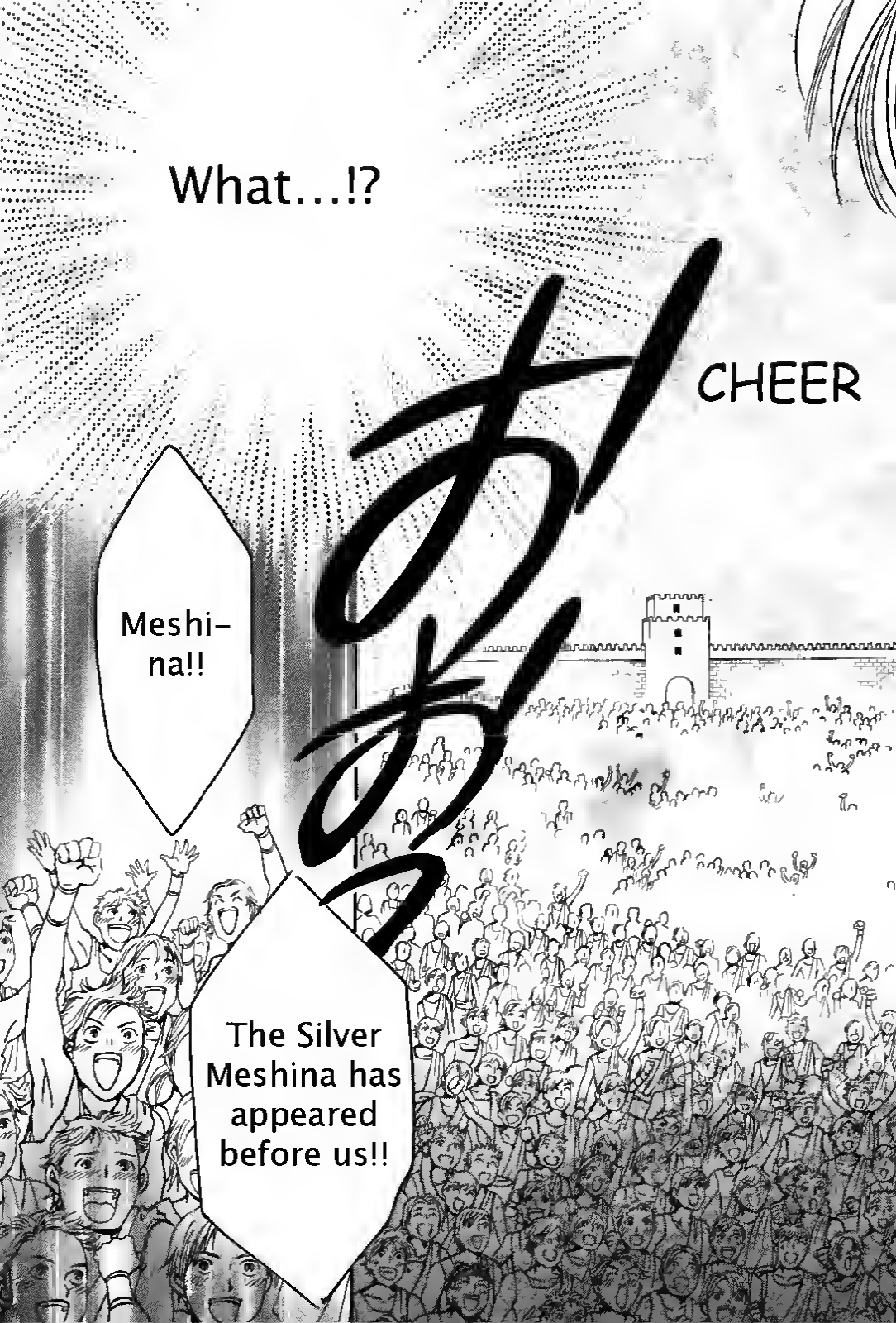
Esfahan's Sword...
It's our traditional way of the sword.
In the battle-field...
...we use swords to overpower enemies but try our best to avoid causing fatal damage.
The Esfahan's Sword is for defense, not for killing.
Our tradition emphasizes the importance of lives.
And the people of Esfahan proudly uphold the tradition.
As Prince Shura once said...
King Muzaharu of Muradabird is our only adversary.
Why throw lives away unneces-sarily?
Prince Shura...

The Esfahan's Sword.

A symbol of integrity...

Prince.
Today's the day, huh?

Our goal is to recapture Farris, the northern city that has been invaded by Muradabird.
Once Farris is back in our control, we can rescue the people.
We'll be there for you!!
We're coming, too.
This would be your first battle, Silver Meshina.
Are you ready, Yuna?
Yes, your High-ness!!
To the battle-field!!


What...!?
CHEER
Meshi-na!!
The Silver Meshina has appeared before us!!

Oh...my... gosh!
So many people, so many eyes on me!
This is a defining moment for them, Silver Meshina, for they believe you hold the key to peace.
To the people of Esfahan, Romaira is an existence akin to God.
They believe in his words.
Give them a wave.
I don't know about that.

Yuna?
Meshina!
Power to us, Meshina!!
I'm just a girl.
She's everything I'm not. I can't live up to her name.
Hold your head up high.

You made a vow, remember?
No more running.
CHEER

I still think I'm here by mistake.
But as long as there are people...
...who need me.
Off we go!!
CHEER

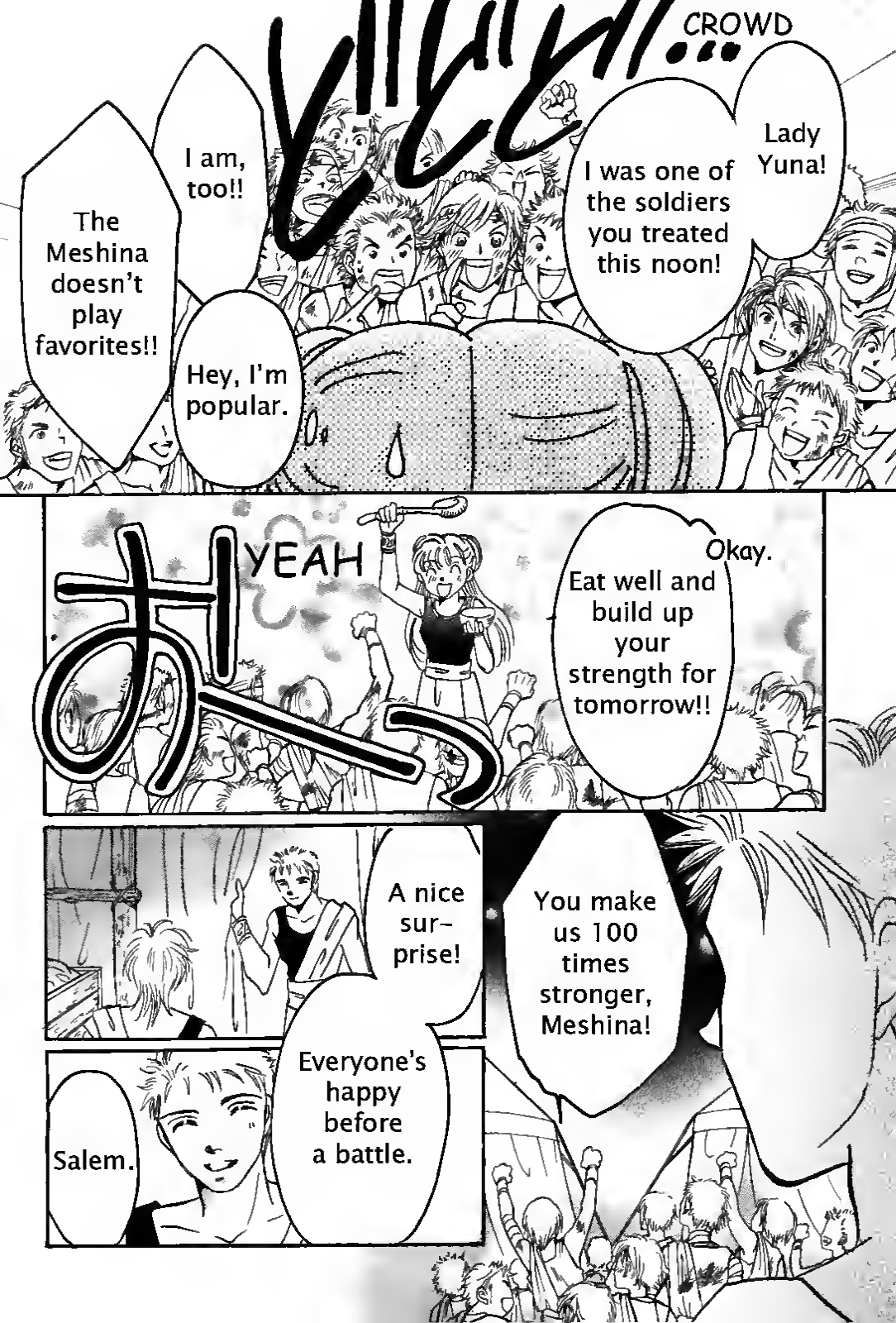
I will be
their
Savior!!

Get water, Maruta!!
Sort out the injured!

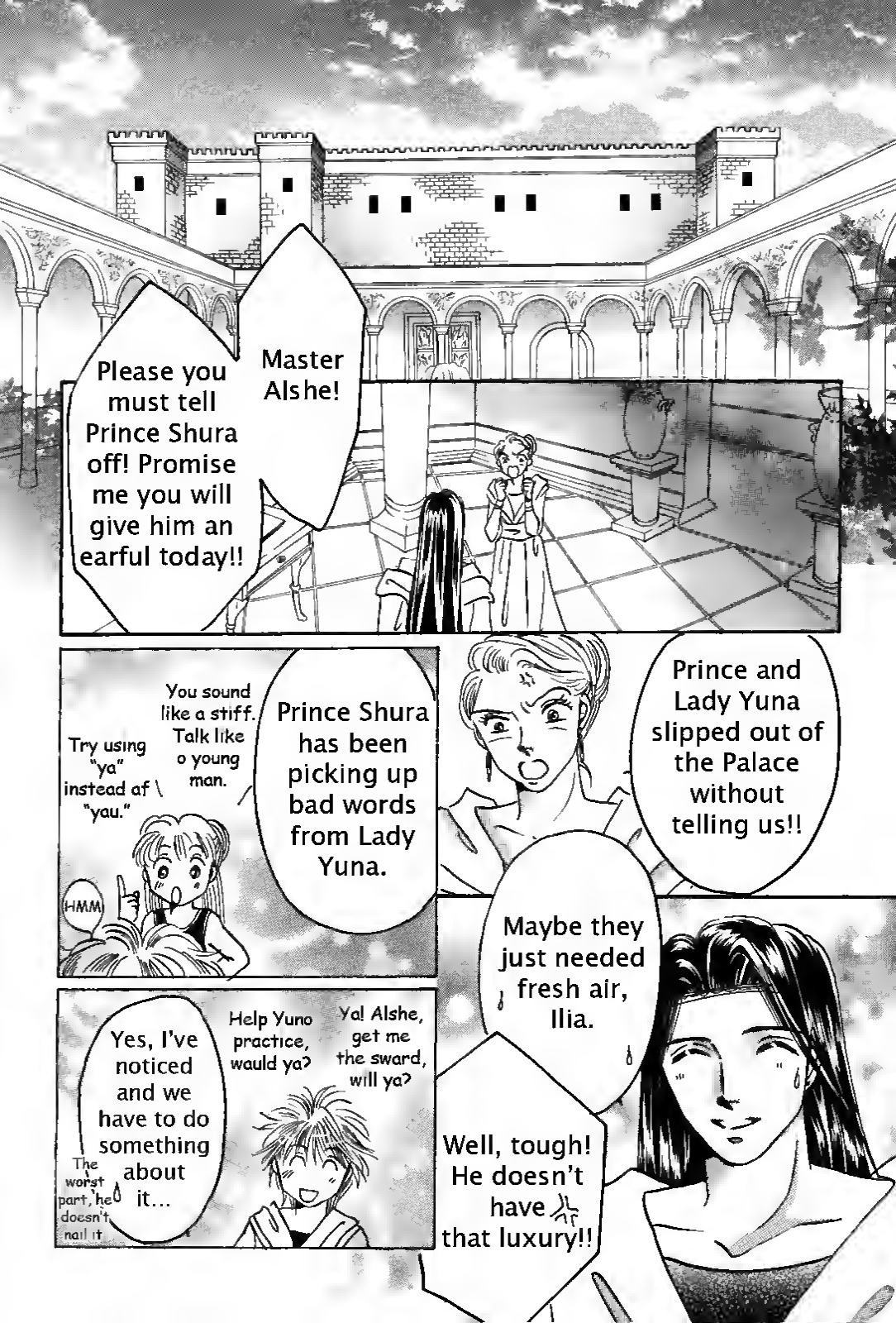
No problem!
The imperial doctor taught me how to perform first-aid.
We're short on military doctors.
I can do odd things like cleaning wounds and stopping bleeding.
Are you all right, my lady?
I'm not afraid anymore!!
There's so much I can do...
But I'm not walking away.
Gentlemen, dinner time!!

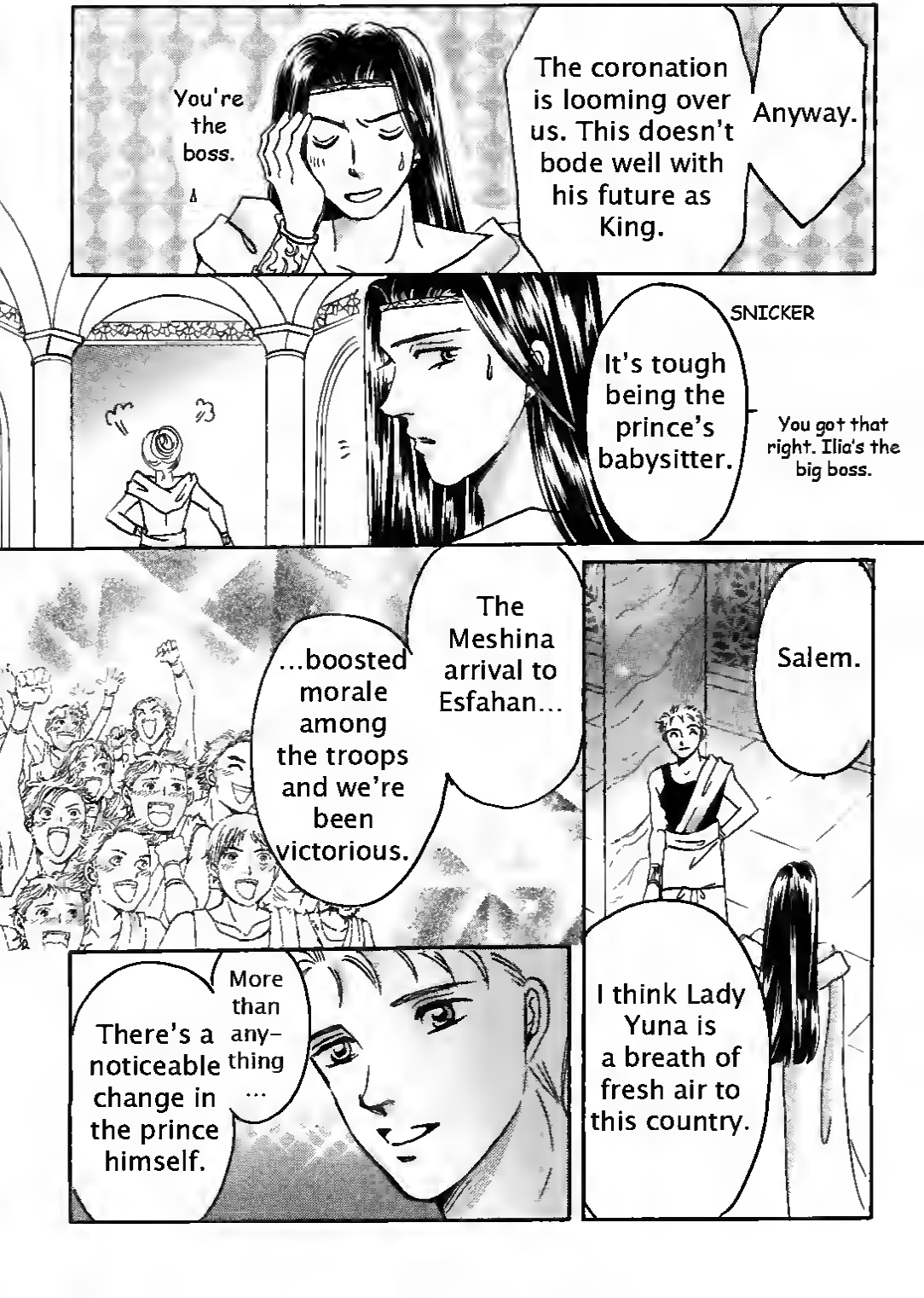
MURMUR
Come get your food in order!!
It's Lady Yuna!!
The Silver Meshina serving us food...?
Stop, Lady Yuna!
It is not a suitable job for the Meshina.
Why not?
I'm useless in the field. Let me be the kitchen lady. It's not a big deal.
And...

Look at all those happy faces.
Firm in their belief that I am the Meshi-na...
There you are!
Oh!
Y-yes, my lady! All healed up.
How are you holding up? All better?
The wounded soldier from earlier...
GRAB
Lady Yuna went out of her way to talk to you. You owe us an explanation.
Hey, what's just hap-pened?


CROWD
Lady Yuna!
I was one of the soldiers you treated this noon!
I am, too!!
The Meshina doesn't play favorites!!
Hey, I'm popular.
YEAH
Okay.
Eat well and build up your strength for tomorrow!!
A nice sur-prise!
You make us 100 times stronger, Meshina!
Everyone's happy before a battle.
Salem.

I get what you're saying.
I get what the Silver Star saw in her. There's something powerful inside that girl.
It doesn't show at the first glance, but...
...I know.


Master Alshe!
Please you must tell Prince Shura off! Promise me you will give him an earful today!!
Prince Shura has been picking up bad words from Lady Yuna.
You sound like a stiff. Talk like o young man.
Try using "ya" instead of "yau."
HMM
Prince and Lady Yuna slipped out of the Palace without telling us!!
Maybe they just needed fresh air, Ilia.
Well, tough! He doesn't have that luxury!!
Yes, I've noticed and we have to do something about it...
The worst part, he doesn't nail it
Help Yuno practice, wauld ya?
Ya! Alshe, get me the sward, will ya?


You're the boss.
The coronation is looming over us. This doesn't bode well with his future as King.
Anyway.
SNICKER
It's tough being the prince's babysitter.
You got that right. Ilia's the big boss.
The Meshina arrival to Esfahan...
...boosted morale among the troops and we're been victorious.
Salem.
I think Lady Yuna is a breath of fresh air to this country.
There's a noticeable change in the prince himself.
More than anything...

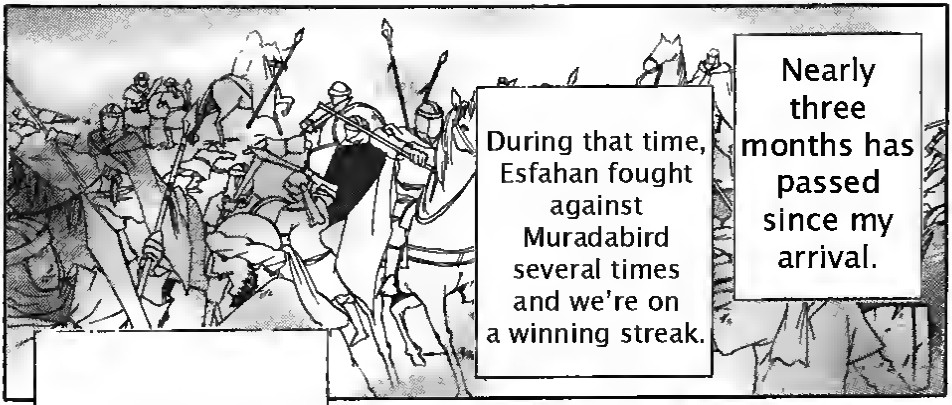
After his father's death, he was withdrawn. There was a sadness in his eyes.
But when Yuna is around, he laughs like he used to, carefree and happy.
It's a welcome sight for sour eyes.
You're right.
He was always a wild one, running around the palace, looking for trouble.
Quite a handful, actually.
SNICKER
At least he has someone who still treats him like a child.
He needs that

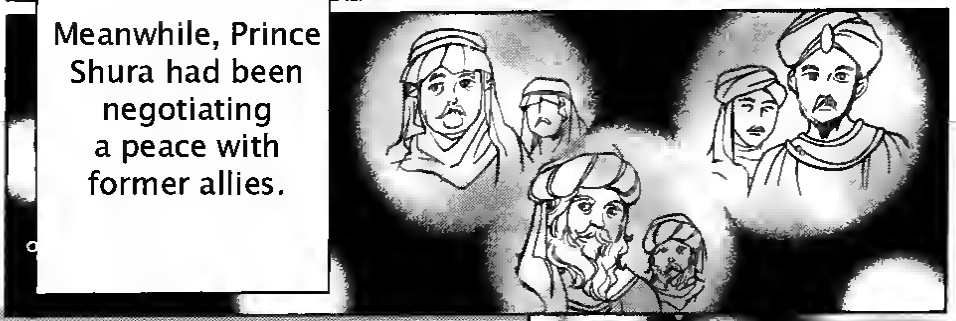
The Lake of Saharu,
a suburban area of Esfahan.
You have to tell me!
Yuna!
We call it an airplane.
It's shaped like this and made of metal.
Jeez, this is hard.
Yes, there is!
Is it true there's a flying machine where you live?

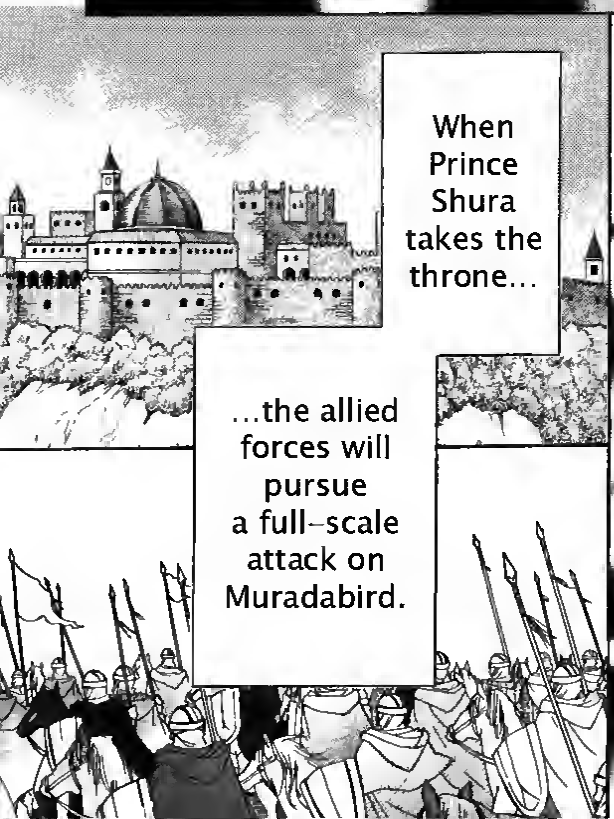
We have a rocket we can launch to the moon or another planet.
W-well, science is a marvel.
Honestly? No idea
To a star!?
How do you get it to lift off the ground!?
わくわく
TELL ME MORE
What kind of metal?
NGH...
Yuna, wait!!
I'm just going to go and play in the water!
Hey, no more.
A machine that soars above and beyond the sky?
Twinkly eyes.
The child is curious to a fault!
I regret not having taken my classes more seriously.
HM?

FWUMP
No, no, no! I hate snakes!!
Hey
Yuna, no!
EEEEK. Snake!
Careful. There're highly venomous snakes in the lake.
What?
What a cliché. Straight from a shojo manga in the 80s
UGH ...
WOOSH
Oops. Sorry...!!

I've built my immunity against most poisons since childhood.
I'm insensitive to most known poisons.
So.
The poison has no effect on you?
Nothing I can't handle, but to you it can be lethal.
Just another day in the palace.
It's not easy being royal.
I've read about the practice of growing resistant against poisoning. Wow, it was true.
Oh, yes.
To fend off assassins.
My father and my grandfather have ruled this country. The dynasty was regnant in the male line of the Sadeen family.
When I turn 17, which is very soon, I will take the throne.
That's the start of the real battle.


During that time, Esfahan fought against Muradabird several times and we're on a winning streak.
Nearly three months has passed since my arrival.





His effort paid off.

They agreed to cease fire. Esfahan reclaimed its position as the leader and they decided to work towards the same goal of peace.

And it will be time for my departure...
If they defeat Muzaharu...
...they can finally put the war to rest and peace will be restored.
...
Thanks ... I'm good!
What's the matter? Tired?
Prince...
You've been away for months.
I'm sure your parents are worried about you.
You want to go home. The one on another plane.

So lift your chin up!!
Rest assured.
...your job as the Meshina is done and you're free to go.
When it blows over and peace is restored...
Alshe will be upset if we're not back before it gets dark.
Let's go.
Get on, Yuna.

It breaks my heart to think how worried they must be.
Of course I miss my family.
But I don't belong here.
Yes, this world has grown on me.
Fool!
I try to push the thought out of my head but...
When the war ends, there will be no reason for me to stick around.

How can I bear to let go of him!!?

Prince Shura.
Alshe.
Can't sleep?
Some-thing on your mind?
...Alshe.
I was thinking about Romaira's prophecy.

When the war ends, will the Silver Meshina –
Never mind.
Prince Shura...
The big day is near.
Defeating Muzaharu should be my only focus right now.

the Palace of Muradabird
What?
Maragus, too? After Truke and Kazark mended fences with Esfahan, other countries are following suit!
HUMPH
Whatever happened to their aspirations! Things were looking good for Esfahan so they chose an easy victory.
Weaklings.
The Virdia of Esfahan, eh?

The Silver Meshi-na?
The Esfahan soldiers are never stronger.
A female called "the Silver Meshina" seems to play a big part.
Here I thought he was only a half-grown youngling.
Who'd have thought he'd grow up to be a threat?
Inter-esting.
The female is from a different dimen-sion.
She's believed to be the savior of the desert in Romaira's book.
I want her.
Must be a beauti-ful female, I reckon.
Lady Luck from an outwardly place.

Death to the Virdia!!
Dispatch assassins to Esfahan.
Prince Shura must be stopped...
...before he takes the throne as King of the desert.

And...
The Meshina shall be mine!!

PATTER
Lady Yuna!
Lady Yuna!
PATTER
Have you seen Prince Shura?
What?
He's not here.
He got away again, Ilia.
Not again!
I should've known better!!
He'll have to deal with me when he's back!!
EEK
Thank you, my lady.

Thanks, Yuna.
You're amazing.
It's clear, Prince.
I'm not a doll they can play dress-up with.
Who can?
Finally something you can't handle. An army of court ladies!
So soon.
There's an air of festivity throughout the country, not just in the castle!
It's the day we the citizens of Esfahan have been waiting for.
They're buzzing around me, basting, fitting, pinning for the coronation.
Prince. You have an image to maintain.

How many more days...
...left for me?
Yuna.
Let's get out of here and take the boat down the Lake of Saharu.
What!?
No! Not when the coronation is so close.
Don't worry.
How can I resist him...
Come the coronation day, I'm no longer a Prince.
Let me live a little.
CHUCKLE

A day trip? Absolutely not!
If you must go, let us accompany you!!
...when he's being a normal boy who wants to have fun?
PHEW
The wind feels so good!
This would be our last trip to the lake.
This is extraordinary where I came from.
Come to think of it.
Me, a high school student, chatting with the prince of a country like we're old friends.

Well, being trans-ported to another world is...
...extraor-dinary to begin with.
If it were in Japan, you'd be shaking hands with the Prime Minister at some important party and...
...I'd be in my living room, watching you on TV news.
Soon...
It will be over. What we have together. All gone.
So this Silver Meshina myth. What's up with that?
You know.
It must have been some kind of mistake. I don't think the Star has any special plans for me.
It should have been someone prettier, smarter and nicer.
I stumbled upon the Legend in Annatour and I got transported by mistake.
Has the Silver Star been wrang befare?

That's not true.
Listen, Yuna.
I'm grateful for you...
Without you, I wouldn't have made this far.
Prince...

Yuna.
You are a beacon of light to the battered soldiers.
Everyone could keep faith in themselves because there was you.
Remember that night in the desert?
When you single-handedly put down the black panther and saved my life?

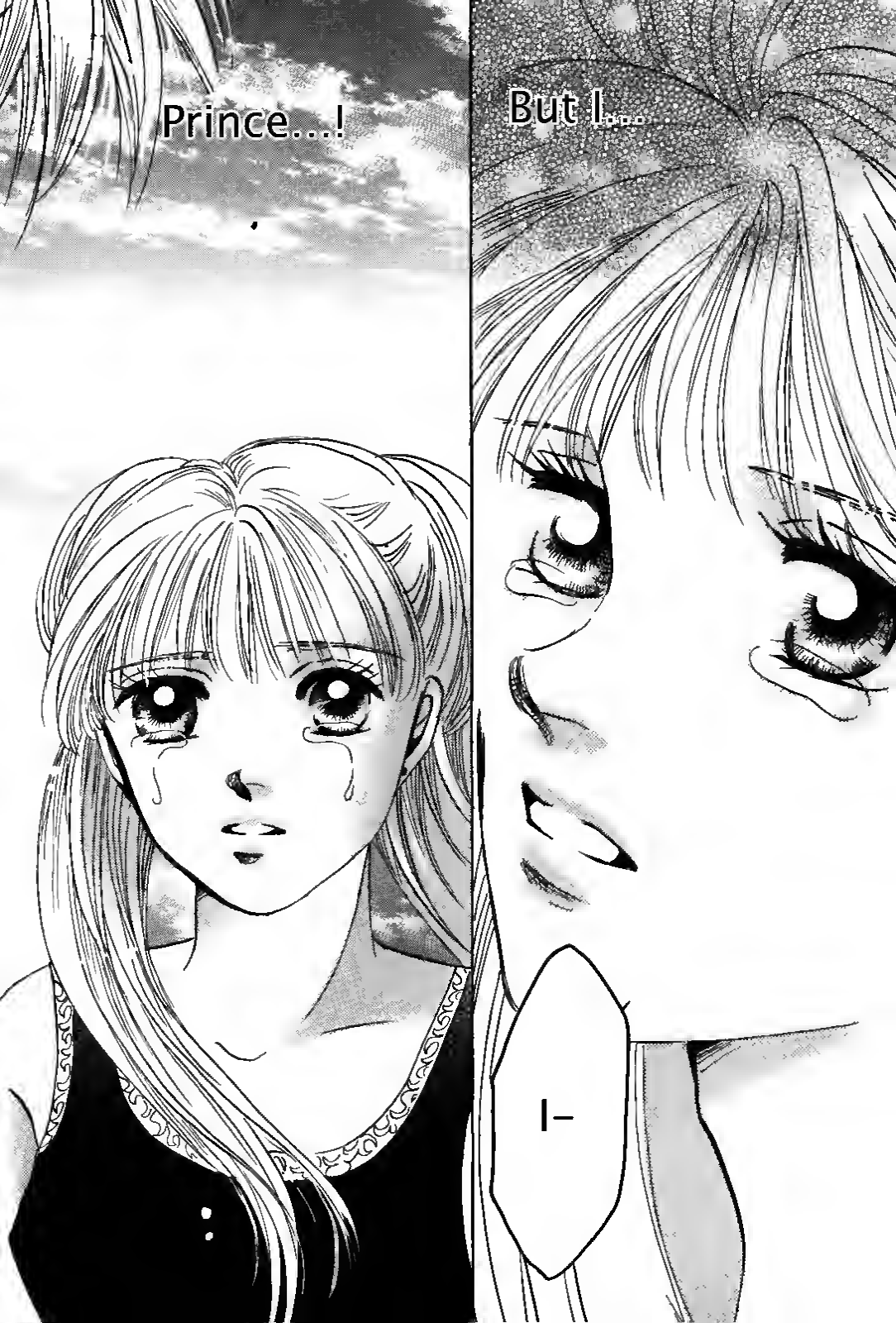
Mark my words.
You are the Meshina.

Prince and Lady Yuna went off to the Lake of Saharu?!
What?!
I don't know how they eluded security...
I'm afraid so.
Prince Shura...
King Muzaharu of Murada-bird.
He wants the prince's head. Word has it he's sent assassins after him.
Too much is at risk.

Muzaharu wants Prince Shura dead before he takes over the throne.
We're going to the Lake Saharu!!
Got it...
Get me a horse, Salem!
And we're giving him that chance...
I have a very bad feeling about this.
Be safe, Prince!!
Yuna?

What's the matter?
Why are you crying?
It's getting harder and harder to ignore.
Sorry.
It's nothing ...
Wh...
...do you look at me so ten-derly?

I tried to push it aside...
...and again...
...again.
...and again.
I can't keep it inside anymore.
We're worlds apart.
I don't belong in his world.
Yuna...?


Prince...!
But I....
I–

There he is. It's Prince Shura...
And that's the Meshina. Saves us a lot of trouble.
Get him.
Consider it handled.
Yuna...?

It's poisoned with the fruit of Dahli.
One shot will kill him.
!!
Someone's in the shrubs.
What?
Look out...!!
THUD

UGH

Yu...
...na.
Prince...

Prince!!
To be continued in the next volume
of the Legend in Annatour.

The Legend in Annatour 1

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